

To the General Assembly,

This testimony is in reference to Bill no. 6375. The manner in which the boards and commissions in this bill have been grouped together for elimination has caused me great alarm. I am so concerned that CT is making serious mistakes that I have thrown myself into completely unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory today to share my thoughts with you.

I ask you to attend closely to these questions:

- Is it acceptable that with this bill over 90 separate and unique boards and commissions are obliterated?
- Are you sure that you have closely examined the services provided by all of these organizations?
- Are you sure that you understand the immediate, secondary and tertiary effects of these eliminations?
- Have you completed cost/benefit analyses to fully understand these eliminations? Here are a few to consider specifically:
 - The Commission on Children: I have used the Commission's publications to inform others in my community about the importance of investing in Early Care and Education for the future of the community. Where would you and I be without the knowledge, guidance and tools they provide?
 - The Community Mental Health Strategic Fund: Did you know that today many families cannot access mental health providers for children with immediate mental health needs? How is CT going to address their ongoing needs?
 - The Invasive Plant Council: Did you know that Kudzu has been found in Connecticut? Do you know how to remove it from your yard?
 - The Head Start Funds Advisory Committee. How effective will Connecticut be utilizing the federal stimulus money coming for Head Start and Early Head Start without connecting with the experts who are currently working in this area?

Lastly,

- Are you sure that you know that you are not causing harm to citizens, families, the elderly and young children by these eliminations?

I urge you to reconsider each and every one of these proposed eliminations before moving ahead.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Jan Kiehne, parent & working citizen
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